

Kentucky Historical Society/Filson Historical Society Essay Contest

National History Day in Kentucky

This is a national program in which Kentucky schools participate and is facilitated by the Kentucky Historical Society. The Kentucky Historical Society serves roughly 2500 students across the state through National History Day (NHD) in Kentucky. It is an academic program that features original research from students around an annual theme. Students must use primary and secondary sources for their research. This year, the theme is ***Rights and Responsibilities in History***. This means that students can find almost any topic of interest to fit the theme. Students can create an exhibit board, website, documentary, performance, or paper.

Contest Information

The Filson Historical Society is sponsoring an essay prize that will go to the top student NHD paper that fulfills the guidelines set out by the Filson Historical Society. National History Day in Kentucky requires that the paper support the theme and fulfills the basic rules of NHD as listed below.

Students will need to indicate when they register for the state contest if they would like to be considered for this prize. The winner(s) of the prize will be announced at the State History Day contest on **April 26th** at the University of Louisville. A junior and senior division winner will be selected.

Essay guidelines

National History Day papers must follow certain guidelines for competition (check the NHD [rulebook](#) for complete rules):

- 1500-2500 words
- Citations must be in MLA or Turabian style
- The title page should include no illustrations
- Must have an annotated bibliography
- Must support the National History Day theme (***Rights and Responsibilities in History***)

The Filson Historical Society has their own guidelines that students should follow in order to have their paper considered:

- Participants are encouraged to utilize Filson Historical Society's archival materials, some of which can be access via website (www.filsonhistorical.org)
- Address a Kentucky topic (here are some suggestions):
 - Pioneer settlement in frontier Kentucky
 - The Lewis and Clark expedition and the Ohio Valley
 - Tecumseh's Indian confederation and the War of 1812
 - Henry Clay's antebellum presidential campaigns
 - Henry Bibb escapes slavery in Kentucky
 - The Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act

- The social and economic impact of the steamboat on the Ohio Valley
- Kentucky's response to secession
- A divided Kentucky in the Civil War
- Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation in Kentucky
- African Americans in Reconstruction-era Kentucky
- The tobacco wars of the early twentieth century
- Coal mining, labor organizing, and environmental issues in eastern Kentucky
- Voting rights for women
- The Depression, the New Deal, and the Tennessee Valley Authority
- The impact of World War I and/or World War II in Kentucky and the Ohio Valley
- The horse racing industry in Kentucky
- The Civil Rights struggle in Kentucky
- Industrialization and environmental protection in the Kentucky and the Ohio Valley

Award Information

- \$200 prize to the top student paper by a 6th-8th grade student.
- \$200 prize to the top student paper by a 9th-12th grade student.